

Swatara Township Planning Commission
February 1, 2018

Board Members in attendance were Scott McFeaters, Dean Patches, Steve Steiner and Jeff Werner.

Jeff Werner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Reorganization

Jeff Werner turned the meeting over to the recording secretary, Jennifer Harding. The floor was opened for nominations for Chairman.

Dean Patches nominated Jeff Werner for Chairman. Seconded by Scott McFeaters. A request was made if there were additional nominations or if the nominations should be closed.

Jeff Werner moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Dean Patches. All voted in favor; motion carried.

The meeting was turned back to Chairman Werner. Mr. Werner opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Jeff Werner moved to nominate Ward Sigler as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Steve Steiner.

Mr. Werner asked if there were any other nominations for Vice-Chairman, finding none. He asked if there was a motion to close nominations?

Scott McFeaters moved to close nominations for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Dean Patches. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Werner asked the recording Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Ward Sigler for Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Werner opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Dean Patches moved to nominate Scott McFeaters as Secretary. Seconded by Jeff Werner. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Werner asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary, finding none. He asked if there was a motion to close nominations?

Steve Steiner moved to close nominations for Secretary. Seconded by Jeff Werner. All voted in favor; motion carried.

The ayes have it. The recording secretary will cast a unanimous ballot for Scott McFeaters for Secretary.

Minutes

The Planning Commission Minutes from November 2, 2017 were read. Changes were requested. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement – the motion should read that it was, “recommended that there be a legal review”. A comment was also made to explain why an article on backyard chickens had been brought to the meeting for discussion.

Jeff Werner moved to approve the minutes with the modifications. Seconded by Scott McFeaters. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Jeff Werner took a moment to welcome Steve Steiner to the Planning Commission, as the newest member.

Old Business

Township Report

Dean Patches reported that he is not serving as Road Master this year. The Township is looking at the possibility of a sign for in front of the building. The Ford 7000 had its fuel tank repaired and a new road foreman has been hired. The Stoner Road Bridge permit has been received from DEP and that project is slated for this year. It is projected to cost between \$80,000 and \$90,000.

Brian Martin Dairy Land Development Plan

The Brian Martin Dairy Land Development Plan review is expiring on February 26, 2018. This matter will be on the Supervisor's February meeting agenda to request an extension.

New Business

S. Lancaster Street Sewer Main Relocation

Discussion was held regarding the plan sheet that was on hand which shows the old and new location of the sewer main. More information will be needed.

Swatara Township Comprehensive Plan

The question was introduced if the Planning Commission would want to begin a review and modification / update of the Township's Comprehensive Plan? The potential cost of this endeavor was discussed. Some of the more obvious deviations of the plan to current practices were discussed, such as Recreation, Lot Sizes, Maps and the lists of roads and businesses. For the next meeting, information from the Municipalities Planning Code outlining the Comprehensive Plan process will be introduced.

Zoning Discussion

A recent zoning hearing prompted discussion amongst the Board. It was commented that the goal of the Township is to preserve the Rural nature of the area. Which is mirrored in the Comprehensive Plan. However, the recent hearing has members of the Board with opposing viewpoints. Some feel that that the property owner should be allowed to do as they like, with only direction on how to do it, from the Township. Others feel that by allowing people to do whatever they like, it has the potential to take away the rural flavor of the township. Others felt that variance requests of this nature created areas of spot zoning. The matter will be reviewed in more detail once the zoning hearing decision is released.

A request was made from the Board for a copy of the State regulations which requires an easement be established in order to discharge water off a road onto private property.

Adjournment

With no further comment or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Harding